

www.omahajazzandblues.com
For More Information Contact:
Vicki at vjq@clarkconnectiongroup.com
402.884.1214



For Immediate Release

Dates, Artists and Times Set For 2005 Omaha Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival *“The Premier Jazz and Blues Festival in the Midwest”*

OMAHA (6/05) – Blues...and all that Jazz! Festival officials announced the dates and times for the 2005 Omaha Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival presented by **US Bank**. The festival will be July 8 and 9 on the Lewis & Clark Landing, located on the boardwalk overlooking the Missouri River in downtown Omaha. Performances begin at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, July 8 and last until 11:30 p.m. The entertainment resumes on Saturday, July 9 at 3:30 p.m. and lasts until 11:30 p.m.

The summer festival has become a highly anticipated event and this year promises to deliver more knockout performances. According to Festival promoter Tim Clark, “The Omaha Riverfront Jazz & Blues Festival is a world class festival in the making and is capturing the excitement of the City’s growth. We’re putting Omaha on the map!” The two-day festival is packed with live musical performances featuring extraordinary local and national jazz and blues musicians.

The jazz and blues artist sharing center stage for 2005 are Jazz Guitarist Kevin Eubanks, Smooth Jazz artist Brian Culbertson, Jazz Saxophonist Kirk Whalum, the masterful Jazz Piano of Jon Cleary, Blue Mercy Band, Jazz Violinist Ken Ford, Brian Jack and the Zydeco Gamblers, and local favorites, the Gulizia Brothers. Festival organizers have expanded their attraction by adding Cecil Bernard to the event. Cecil is known as the “artist to the stars.” He specializes in jazz and abstract paintings and his paintings can be found in the collections of Wynton Marsalis, Magic Johnson and Steve Harvey.

Midwest Airlines is giving away **2round trip tickets** on Friday AND Saturday, July 8 and 9. The first 500 attendees on both days will have their name placed in a drawing and the exciting opportunity to be the winner of **2 FREE round trip tickets courtesy of Midwest Airlines**.

Tickets for the Omaha Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival may be purchased at the **Ticket Omaha Office** located at the Orpheum Theater, online at www.ticketomaha.org, by phone at (402) 345-0606 or (402) 341-1811 (TTY). Tickets can also be purchased at **all Homers locations, Leola's CD's & Tapes, and Import Village**. Daily tickets purchased in advance are \$15, \$20 at the gate and \$25 for both days. Advance tickets are subject to service charges at the various outlets.

Major sponsors for the 2005 Omaha Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival include: **US Bank** (*Presenting sponsor*), Douglas County Visitors Improvement Fund, Mutual of Omaha, OPPD, Pepsi, Union Pacific, Michelob Ultra, KETV 7, Midwest Airlines, Budweiser, Old Mill Toyota and The Reader.

Special hotel packages are available for those attending the Omaha Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival. For more information, contact Audrey Hulsey at Convention Meeting Services – info@CMSOmaha.com or call 888.339.1142/402.393.1142.

The Omaha Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival is produced by the Midland's Cultural and Historical Association; a non-profit organization and is a staple in the cultural preservation of Jazz & Blues music. The festival emphasizes the importance and contributions of Jazz and Blues in America and celebrates the rich heritage of Jazz and Blues in the Omaha community. Complete festival information can be obtained through www.omahajazzandblues.com or by calling 402.884.1214. This event is managed by Clark Connection Group.

###